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Paper No. 8

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In re Application of: M. Goeller et al.
Application No. 09/810,945
Filed: March 15, 2001
For: POINT OF SALE CHECK SERVICE

**DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL**

This is a decision on the petition, filed October 1, 2001, to make the above-identified application special under 37 C.F.R. § 102(d) and M.P.E.P. § 708.02(VIII): Accelerated Examination.

M.P.E.P. § 708.02, Section VIII which sets out the prerequisites for a grantable petition for Accelerated Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 102(d) states in relevant part:

A new application (one which has not received any examination by the examiner) may be granted special status provided that applicant (and this term includes applicant's attorney or agent) complies with each of the following items:

- (A) Submits a petition to make special accompanied by the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h);
- (B) Presents all claims directed to a single invention, or if the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status...;
- (C) Submits a statement(s) that a pre-examination search was made, listing the field of search by class and subclass, publication, Chemical Abstracts, foreign patents, etc. A search made by a foreign patent office satisfies this requirement;
- (D) Submits one copy each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims if said references are not already of record; and
- (E) Submits a detailed discussion of the references, which discussion points out, with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references.

In those instances where the request for this special status does not meet all the prerequisites set forth above, applicant will be notified and the defects in the request will be stated. The application will remain in the status of a new application awaiting action in its regular turn. In those instances where a request is defective in one or more respects, applicant will be given one opportunity to perfect the request in a renewed petition to make special. If perfected, the request will then be granted. If not perfected in the first renewed petition, any additional renewed petitions to make special may or may not be considered at the discretion of the Group Special Program Examiner.

Applicant's submission is deficient in that it does not clearly comply with (C) and (E) above. With respect to (C), a box is checked on the submitted form indicating a field of search in "classes" and "subclasses", but there are no class or subclass numbers filled in to identify which ones were searched. With respect to (E), applicant has not pointed out with the particularity required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c), how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the references. Claim 1 calls for a drawee computer that is "arranged to perform conversion, verification or guarantee". Note the use of "or" meaning that only one of "conversion, verification or guarantee" needs to be met in order to read on the claim. This impacts the discussion of the references in that some references are only asserted as not teaching or suggesting one of the three alternatives. Note the discussion of Higashiyama et al. with respect to claim 1 for example, which states that it does not "teach or suggest a drawee computer that is arranged to perform guarantee of checks based upon transaction information, as specifically required by claim 1". The discussions of claims 9 and 17 have similar issues of alternatives.

Accordingly, the Petition is **DENIED**. The application file is being forwarded to Central Files to await examination in its proper turn based on its effective filing date.

Any request for reconsideration must be filed within two months of the mailing date of this decision.



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